



# Texas Health Steps (THSteps) Checkups Common Errors

## THSteps Guidelines

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas (BCBSTX) conducts quarterly audits of Medicaid (STAR and STAR Kids) Texas Health Steps (THSteps) checkups and CHIP well child checkup records to ensure members are receiving a thorough exam per the THSteps guidelines. The THSteps Periodicity Schedule for Infants, Children, and Adolescents defines the required components of the checkup and closely reflects the Bright Futures/American Academy of Pediatrics schedule of Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care.

## Most common errors found during auditing:

### Mental Health: Psychosocial/Behavioral Health Screening

- Use a mental health screening tool to satisfy the mental health component. **If a tool is not used, documentation of the patient's academic or social performance in various areas can meet criteria, i.e. school, friendships, bonding, coping, sleeping, etc.**

### Tuberculosis Questionnaire

- The Tuberculosis Questionnaire is the approved tuberculosis screening for THSteps. It is required starting at 12 months and then annually through the age of 20. **Please send the questionnaire or documentation of completion when you are audited to receive credit.**

### Vitals Signs

- You must complete height and weight on **all children, of all ages, regardless of medical conditions**. Starting at the **age of 2, a BMI (or BMI graph) is required** annually on all children. At the **age of 3**, all children are **required to have an annual blood pressure**. **If the child is uncooperative or unable to perform the test, document the reason to receive credit.**

### Hearing and Vision

- **You must perform a hearing and vision screening and document it at all THSteps checkups**. Please document if a subjective exam is all that is required. If a visual acuity or audiometric screening is due, document the results in the records. **If the child is unable or uncooperative when attempting the exam, document the reason to receive credit.**

### Follow-up for next preventative visit

- THSteps checkup requires to inform **patients of their next preventative visit**. **Documentation cannot say "follow-up PRN" or "return in 2 months"**. Examples of adequate documentation include: "Follow-up for next preventative exam in ...", "follow-up for next THSteps checkup in ..." or "follow-up for 6y checkup in one year".


The [Texas Health Steps website](#) offers up-to-date information on periodicity schedules, checkup components and trainings as resources to providers.



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## Resources:

Review the [BCBSTX Preventive Care Guidelines \(PCGs\)](#) , [Clinical Practice Guidelines \(CPGs\)](#) and [THSteps for Medical Providers](#) which includes all current vaccine schedules, [ImmTrac2](#) , and other important guidance for treating your patients.

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